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C1*

Stachybotrys parvispora and is capable of modifying the color associated with a dye or colored compound.

11. (Twice amended) A purified phenol oxidizing enzyme having an apparent molecular weight of about 30.9 kD as determined by SDS-PAGE and exhibiting an increase in apparent molecular weight after boiling, wherein said purified enzyme is obtained from *Stachybotrys chartarum* and is capable of modifying the color associated with a dye or colored compound.

12. (Twice amended) The purified phenol oxidizing enzyme of claim 10 having a pH optimum from 5.0 to 7.0, inclusive as determined by incubation for 2 minutes at 20 degrees C with 2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonate) (ABTS) as substrate.

13. (Twice amended) The purified phenol oxidizing enzyme of claim 10 having a pH optimum from 6.0 to 7.5, inclusive, as determined by incubation for 2 minutes at 20 degrees C with syringaldizin as substrate.

14. (Twice amended) The purified phenol oxidizing enzyme of claim 10 having a pH optimum from 7.0 to 9.0, inclusive, as determined by incubation for 2 minutes at 20 degrees C with 2,6-dimethoxyphenol as substrate.

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Please add the following new claims.

64. The phenol oxidizing enzyme of claim 10, wherein said colored compound is selected from the group consisting of porphyrin compounds, polyphenol compounds, carotenoid compounds, anthocyanin compounds and maillard reaction compounds.

65. The phenol oxidizing enzyme of claim 11, wherein said colored compound is selected from the group consisting of porphyrin compounds, polyphenol compounds, carotenoid compounds, anthocyanin compounds and maillard reaction compounds.

In The Specification

Please add after the title of the invention at page 1 the following statement concerning priority of the application.

C3
M 01/28/03

-- This application is a continuation in part of application serial number 09/046,969, filed March 24, 1998, now abandoned and a continuation in part of application serial number 09/218,702, filed December 22, 1998, now US Patent No. 6,426,410.